

C O P Y
OF THE
A R T I C L E S

OF THE
PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION,

ENTERED INTO AT
NORTH-SHIELDS,

NORTH-SHIELDS:
PRINTED BY W. KELLEY.

M,DCC,XC.



ARTICLES of AGREEMENT, indented, made, and fully agreed upon this eleventh day of January, in the Thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety, BETWEEN James Smith, of North-Shields, in the county of Northumberland, Ship-Owner; Samuel Hurry, and John Fexwick, both of Dockwray Square, in the parish of Tynemouth, in the said county of Northumberland, Ship-Owners; Robert Laing, of Toll Square, in the said parish of Tynemouth, Ship-Owner; George French of Turner's Houses, in the said parish of Tynemouth, Ship-Owner; and the several other Persons, Gentlemen, Merchants, Owners and Masters of Ships, residing within the limits of the Port of Newcastle, who shall on the day of the date hereof, or at any

A

time

time or times hereafter, be admitted into, and become Members of this Company or Society as hereinafter mentioned, and shall sign, seal, and duly execute these presents, as parties to the same.

AND all and every of the said severall and respective persons above-named, and also all and every other person and persons who shall hereafter become parties by duly executing these presents, DO, and each and every of them DOTH hereby severally and respectively, for themselves, and for their severall and respective heirs, executors, and administrators, and not jointly or the one of them for the other or others of them, or for the heirs, executors, and administrators of one another, Covenant, promise, and agree, to and with each and every of the other and others of them, and their severall and respective executors and administrators, to unite and associate themselves into a Company or Society for the purposes hereinafter particularly mentioned, and in all things on their respective parts and behalves to keep, observe, obey, perform, make and do, all and singular

singular the conditions, clauses, rules, orders, regulations, payments, and other matters and things whatever, by these presents agreed to be kept, observed, obeyed, performed, made and done respectively, and hereinafter particularly expressed, (that is to say)

FIRST, It is agreed, that from and after the day of the date hereof, there shall be a Society within the limits of the Port of Newcastle, consisting of the Subscribers to these Articles, and that every person who shall become a member, shall at the time of his subscription pay the sum of One Pound One Shilling, and from thenceforth continue paying Ten Shillings a quarter, all which Monies shall go to the Chest; and upon the due payment of such Entrance; and also of the said quarterly money by such member, his widow (if any) shall from and after his decease, be entitled to the Calendar Monthly Payment of Twenty Shillings, out of the said Chest (if demanded) during her Life, provided the fund will admit thereof.

ALSO, That every Person who shall become a Member of this Society, after the second

Tuesday in April next, shall pay the Sum of One Pound Eleven Shillings and Six-pence Entrance, and every Person who shall Subscribe after the second Tuesday in July next, shall pay the Sum of Two Pounds Two Shillings Entrance, and every Person who shall Subscribe after the second Tuesday in October next, shall pay the Sum of Two Pounds Twelve Shillings and Six-pence Entrance, and every Person who shall Subscribe after the second Tuesday in January next, shall pay the Sum of Three Pounds Three Shillings Entrance, and from thenceforth continue to pay Ten Shillings a Quarter, as aforesaid.

ALSO, That there shall be chosen and constituted out of, and from amongst the Members of this Society, by the Voices of such Members, or the major Part of them present, at least five discreet honest Men, to be Directors of this Society; which said Directors shall continue in their Office untill others shall be elected in their Room, according to the Direction hereinafter-mentioned.

ALSO, That there may be a constant and regular Succession of Directors, there shall on the
second

second Tuesday in January yearly, from and after this present Year, be chosen and constituted as aforesaid, three new Directors, qualified as before-mentioned, which said new Directors shall succeed three of the Directors before first elected, who shall then cease to be Directors. And no Director whatsoever shall continue in his Office above two Years from the time of his being chosen.

ALSO, That the said Directors shall yearly, on the second Tuesday in January, chuse and appoint three of their number to take care of the said Chest, which shall have three Locks and Keys to it, for the Security of the Money that shall from time to time be kept therein; and each of them shall keep a Key, and shall bring his Key with him, or send the same to every Quarterly Meeting of the Directors, on Forfeiture of Five Shillings, to be disposed of as the said Directors shall think proper.

ALSO, That the said Directors shall, from Time to Time, keep an exact account of all the Monies collected and received, and also of all Disbursements, during the time of their being
Directors

Directors of this Society. At the End of which they shall deliver up their Accounts to the Directors appointed to succeed them: And if any Person or Persons belonging to the said Society, being entrusted with any Money, shall at any time misapply, or fraudulently detain, or convert the same but to the Use of the said Society, or make any false or unjust Accounts to the prejudice of the said Society, every such Person or Persons so transgressing, or breaking any other Article hereby agreed on, which shall be detrimental to the said Society, shall forthwith be excluded the Society, and his Wife and Children be for ever debarred from all Benefit hereby intended, and the Person or Persons shall notwithstanding, make full Satisfaction to the Society.

ALSO, That there shall not be any Money lent out of the Chest, on any Pretence whatsoever, but upon such Security as the Majority of the said Directors shall approve of.

ALSO, That the place for the Quarterly Meetings, and for the keeping of the Chest, shall from
Time

Time to Time be where the Directors for the Time being shall think proper.

ALSO, That if any Member of this Society, at any Meeting of the Directors, shall insult, abuse, or in any manner molest any of the said Directors, he shall forfeit Five Shillings for the first Offence, and Ten Shillings for the second of the same Nature, which Forfeitures shall be disposed of as the said Directors shall think proper; and if any Person or Persons, guilty of any such offence, shall refuse to pay the Forfeiture for the same, he or they shall, with his or their Wife or Wives, and Child or Children, be for ever excluded the Benefit of this Society, unless the said Directors shall have just reason to continue such Offender or Offenders in the said Society.

ALSO, That no Member of this Society, excluded for any the reasons aforesaid, shall insist upon having any Money returned, on any pretence whatsoever.

ALSO, That if any Member or Members of this Society, shall neglect paying to this Society, for the space of six Months, he or they so neglecting

neglecting shall, with his or their Wife or Wives, and Child or Children, be excluded the Benefit of this Society, unless the said Directors shall see just reason to the contrary.

ALSO, That in case of the death or removal from the limits of the Port of Newcastle, of any of the said Directors, the Vacancy or Vacancies, shall at the next Quarterly Meeting, by the Voices of the Directors then present, or the major part of them, be filled up for the remainder of the time such Director or Directors had to serve.

ALSO, That no Widow shall have any Benefit from this Society, unless the Member by whom she shall claim, shall have made his regular Quarterly Payments, at Ten Shillings for the space of One Year at least.

ALSO, That every Widow that shall be entitled to the Benefit of this Society, shall stay one Month after she makes application to the Directors, before she shall enter upon receiving such Benefit: And that no Widow shall be entitled to receive the same, any longer than she shall continue the Widow of the Member
by

by whom she shall claim, any thing hereinbefore mentioned to the contrary notwithstanding.

ALSO, That if the Widow of any Member of this Society, shall at her decease or marriage, leave or have any Child or Children by that Member, which Child or Children shall be incapable of providing for himself, herself, or themselves, by reason of his, her, or their tender Age, or otherwise, then such Child or Children, shall have such allowances out of the Chest, as the Majority of the Directors at any Quarterly Meeting shall think proper.

ALSO, That no Person belonging to the Navy shall ever be allowed to be a Member of this Society, and that no Person whatsoever shall be admitted a Member of this Society, but such as shall be approved of by the Directors for the Time being.

ALSO, That after the Stock shall amount to Fifty Pounds, there shall be an allowance of Five Shillings a Quarter, and no more, out of the Chest, towards the Expence of the Directors at their Quarterly Meetings.

ALSO,

ALSO, That the Meetings of the Directors shall always be in the Town of North-Shields; and that the Chest with the Money, and such Security or Securities as shall be from Time to Time taken for any Part thereof, as aforesaid in it, shall be produced at every Meeting; and that the said Chest shall always be kept in the said Town of North-Shields.

ALSO, That a Secretary shall be chosen by the said Directors Yearly, to keep and make up their Accounts, and attend them at their Quarterly Meetings, and the said Secretary shall have such allowance for his Service as the said Directors shall think proper.

ALSO, That no Member shall be chosen a Director, but such as shall live within the limits of the Port of Newcastle, and that no new Director shall be chosen in the Room of any other, who shall have served the time of Directorship, but at the General Meeting of the Society, or at the Quarterly Meetings of the said Directors as aforesaid.

ALSO, That there shall always be a Meeting of the Directors of this Society, once a Quarter,

(that

(*that is to say*) on the second Tuesday in *April*, the second Tuesday in *July*, the second Tuesday in *October*, and the second Tuesday in *January*; and at which Meetings all Quarterly Payments shall be made.

ALSO, That in Case any Member or Members of this Society shall be so far reduced through Misfortunes, as to want relief, that then such Member or Members; upon proper application to the Directors, shall have and receive such Assistance from the Chest, as the Majority of the Directors shall think fit.

ALSO, That an Annual Meeting of the Members of this Society shall be held on the second Tuesday in *January* Yearly; and that the prosecution of so good a design may not be attended with obstructions or irremovable inconveniencies, the several Parties hereto do mutually agree, that from time to time the Members of this Society at any General Annual Meeting, or the major Part of those Members that shall be then assembled, shall have power, and are hereby enabled to make such Bye Laws and Orders, as shall be thought fit and requisite for the conducting
the

the affairs of the said Society, and for the better ordering the Benefits intended hereby, and to reverse and alter the same at every such Annual Meeting, all which Bye Laws Orders and Reversals entered in the Books of this Company, and signed by the major Part of the Members that shall be then assembled, shall be of as much force and efficacy, as if the same were inserted in these Presents. In Witness whereof, the said Parties to these Presents have hereunto set their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year first before written.

